NORTH – SOUTH KOREA

Red Cross Talks

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Agreement Reached on Setting Up North-South Red Cross Joint Committee and North-South Red Cross Joint Office in Panmunjom

At the working-level meeting between the two sides held in accordance with the agreement reached in principle at the fourth session of the north-south Red Cross talks, an agreement was reached on setting up bodies for carrying into practice the agreed points on the agenda items.

The agreement was initialled, authorized by the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society, by delegate Han Si Hyok and, authorized by the delegation of the South Korean Red Cross Society, by delegate Kim Dal Sul.

The agreement says:

At the fourth session of the north-south Red Cross talks which opened in Seoul on November 22, 1972, the two sides reached the following agreement:

1. The North-South Red Cross Joint Committee and the North-South Red Cross Joint Office in Panmunjom shall be set up for fulfilling the points agreed upon at the north-south Red Cross talks.

2. The functions, procedures of operation and composition of the North-South Red Cross Joint Committee and the North-South Red Cross Joint Office in Panmunjom shall be decided upon separately.

3. In case of any need for instituting other bodies for the fulfilment of the points agreed upon at the north-south Red Cross talks, further discussions and decisions shall follow.

4th Session of North-South Red Cross Talks Held

The fourth session of the north-south Red Cross talks was held in Seoul on November 22.

The fourth session of the talks was held at a time when the aspiration for the independent reunification of the country is growing ever stronger among the entire people of the north and south following the announcement of the historic north-south joint statement based on the three principles of national reunification laid down by the respected and beloved Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and following the successful second meeting of the Co-Chairmen of the North-South Co-ordination Commission held in Pyongyang at which the north and south reached another important agreement in accordance with the teachings of the Leader which expounded the practical ways for fulfilling the agreed points of the statement and the basic contents of the north-south relations.

At the third session of the talks held in Pyongyang the delegation of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea put forth five basic principles to be adhered to in the discussion of the agenda—to firmly adhere to the stand of *Juche* and maintain the independent and creative stands in the work of the talks, to thoroughly implement the principle of democracy and the principle of freedom in all problems raised, to deepen mutual understanding and trust between the north and the south and promote national harmony and great unity through the work of the talks, to push ahead with the work of alleviating the sufferings of the separated fellow countrymen as a nation-wide, all-people work to make it achieve fine results and to fully embody the Red Cross humanitarian principles

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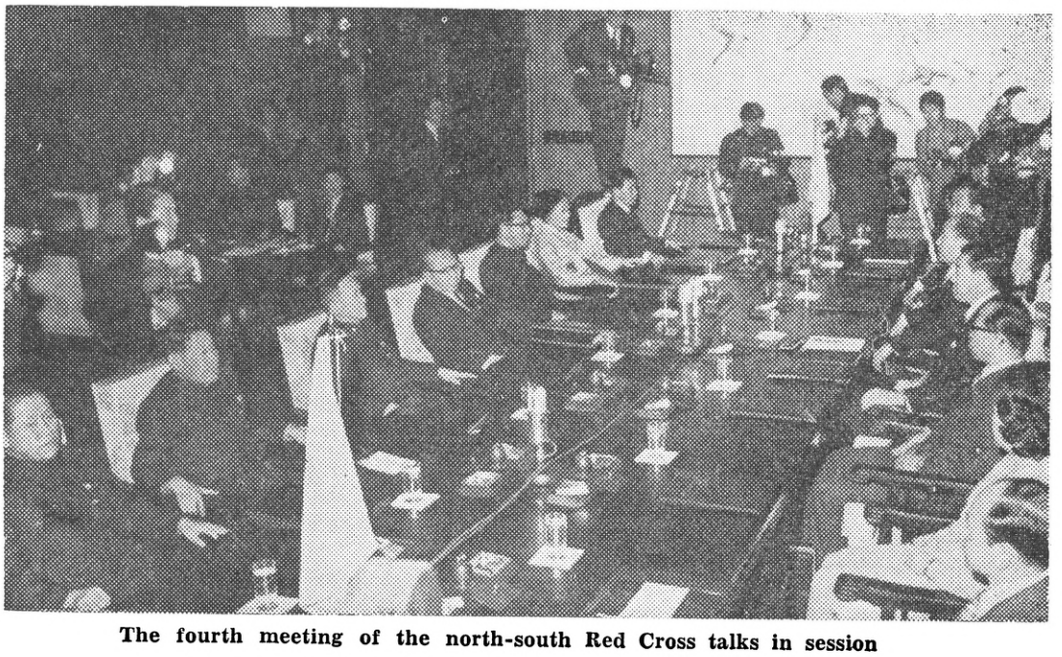

The fourth meeting of the north-south Red Cross talks in session

Delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society in Seoul

The delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society visited Seoul to attend the fourth session of the north-south Red Cross talks. They stayed there for three days enjoying warm welcome of the south Korean people overflowing with compatriotic love.

On November 22 the delegation headed by Kim Tae Hui crossed Panmunjom with its advisers and suite and our journalists.

They were greeted by alternate chief of the delegation of the South Korean Red Cross Society, its members, advisers and suite and south Korean newsmen.

Kim Tae Hui made a statement at Panmunjom on the occasion of the second entry of the delegation into south Korea.

In the morning that day our Red Cross delegation arrived in Seoul receiving a warm welcome of fellow countrymen in the south.

Kim Tae Hui made a statement on his arrival in Seoul.

The fourth session of the north-south Red Cross talks was held behind closed door in the morning and afternoon that day.

The men of our side were invited in the evening that day to the dinner arranged by Li Bom Sok, chief of the delegation of the South Korean Red Cross Society.

After the conclusion of the fourth session, on the morning of November 23 they visited the Songyong Synthetic and Chemical Fibre Company at Jongza-dong, Suwon, Kyonggi Province. In the afternoon they inspected shops in Seoul.

In the evening that day Kim Tae Hui, head of the delegation, and delegation members and advisers were invited to the banquet given by Li Hu Rak, Director of the South Korean Central Intelligence Agency and Co-Chairman of the south Korean side to the North-South Co-ordination Commission.

The DPRK Red Cross delegation returned to Pyongyang, our glorious capital of revolution, on November 24, via Panmunjom and Kaesong.

Kim Tae Hui, the head of our delegation, makes a statement on arrival in Seoul for the north-south Red Cross talks

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in the discussion of all matters. These basic principles should serve as a basis for successfully solving all the agenda items of the full-dress talks and are of weighty importance in removing the sufferings of the fellow countrymen caused by the split and expediting the independent, peaceful reunification of the country, the aspiration of the nation.

To solve the "question of finding out the addresses of the family members and relatives separated in the north and the south and ascertaining whether they are alive or not and notifying the results," the first item on the agenda, the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society put forth such concrete proposals as the questions of removing all the judicial and social obstacles and creating conditions and circumstances in south Korea to enable the parties concerned and assistants to express their will and conduct activities freely in a democratic way, dispatching an appropriate number of personnel explaining the Red Cross undertakings to the area of the other side with an aim to create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust between the north and the south and of great national unity, setting the scope of the family members and relatives separated in the north and the south in accordance with the appeal of the persons concerned and the way of finding out their addresses and ascertaining whether they are alive or not and notifying the results in accordance with the democratic demand of the persons concerned and the free expression of their will and establishing a Joint Red Cross Committee with a view to successfully ensuring the implementation of the agreement on the above matters and setting up its offices in the places necessary.

The proposal put forth by the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society concerning the first item on the agenda is a most fair and above-board proposal which fully accords with the spirit of the historic north-south joint statement based on the three principles of independent and peaceful reunification and great national unity and with the Red Cross humanitarian principles and is a most realistic and compatriotic proposal covering all problems of principle for alleviating extensively the sufferings of the separated fellow countrymen under the present conditions of our divided country.

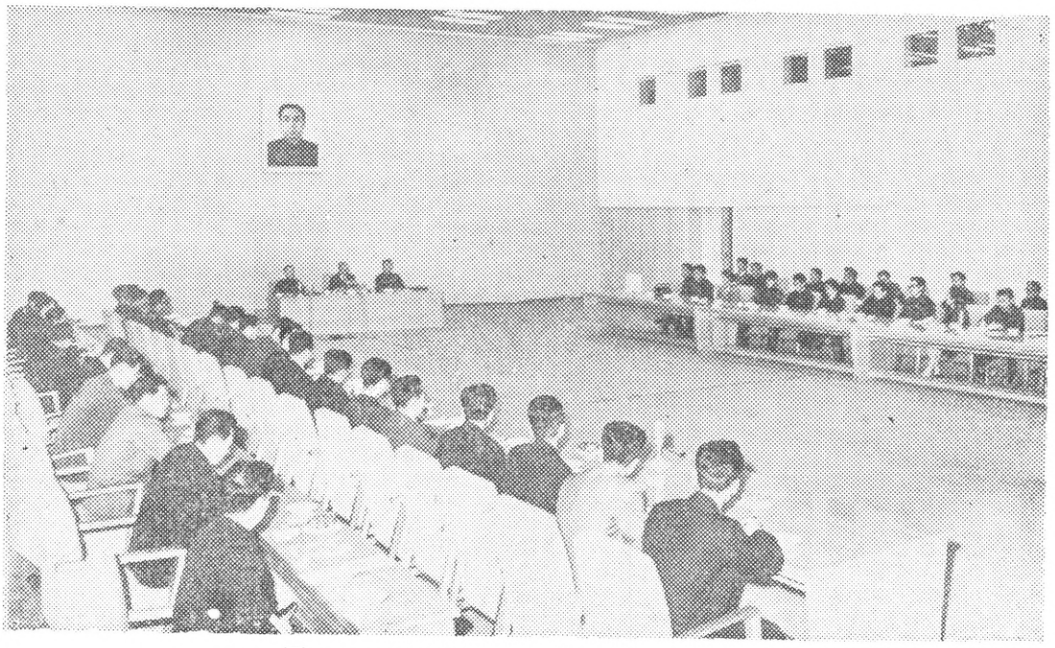
At the third session of the talks the delegation of the South Korean Red Cross Society put forth a series of procedural matters arising before the Red Cross societies of the two sides concerning the problem of finding out the addresses of the family members and relatives and ascertaining whether they are alive or not and notifying the results.

At the fourth session of the north-south Red Cross talks the two sides had a frank and openhearted exchange of views to narrow down differences in accordance with the proposals put forth by the two sides at the third session of the north-south Red Cross talks held in Pyongyang, the glorious capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The morning and afternoon sittings of that day's session were held behind closed doors.

The session entered a working-level meeting.

Kim Tae Hui, Head of Delegation of DPRK Red Cross Society, Meets Reporters in Pyongyang



The press conference held in Pyongyang

Kim Tae Hui, head of the delegation of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, met reporters on the evening of November 25 on the return of our delegation to Pyongyang, the glorious capital, from the fourth session of the north-south Red Cross talks.

Hung on a wall of the press conference hall was a portrait of the respected and beloved Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the great sun of the nation, who brightly illumines the road to national reunification with the immortal *Juche* idea and always leads our people along the one road of victory and glory, happiness and prosperity with its undying torchlight.

Present at the press conference were a large number of newspaper, news agency and radio reporters and the Korean pressmen who came to the homeland from Japan to cover the north-south Red Cross talks.

Chu Chang Jun, deputy head, and Cho Myong Il, spokesman, of the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society, were on hand.

The head of the delegation said that in the short period of its stay in Seoul our delegation successfully carried out its activities, being touched to the heart by the paternal solicitude and profound care of the respected and beloved Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung who was deeply concerned for its work and the life of its members down to details, and all its members came back safe. On this occasion, he said, I extend, representing the unanimous loyal feelings of the members of the delegation, the highest honour and the warmest thanks to the respected and beloved Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the peerless patriot, national hero, ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander and one of the outstanding leaders of the international communist movement and working-class movement, for having reared us as the Red Cross workers of Korea of *Juche*, brightly lit the road to us, and taken warm care of us with the love of a real father.

The head of the delegation quoted the great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung as saying:

"First of all, we will exert every effort to bring about the earliest possible success of the talks between the Red Cross organizations of the north and south now going on amid the expectations of the whole nation. In this way we intend to alleviate the misfortunes and hardships of the families and relatives separated in the north and south by the artificial division of the country and provide favourable conditions for the independent, peaceful reunification of the country."

Holding high this teaching of the Leader, the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society, at the fourth session of the talks, laid stress again on the correctness of the five main principles to be observed without fail in the discussion and solution of the agenda items and clarified once again the four proposals it had advanced at the third session of the talks held in Pyongyang in connection with the first agenda item of the talks, he stated.

Saying that the proposals of ours are reasonable ones embodying most perfectly the Red Cross humanitarian principles, he pointed out:

They not only accord thoroughly with the Red Cross humanitarian principles for alleviating at the earliest date, on a wide scope and smoothly the sufferings of the compatriots caused by the division of our country by outside forces, but also fully conform with their requirement as well.

At the latest session of the talks the two sides could not reach a complete unanimity of views, but each side acquired better understanding of the view and stand of the other side and laid a foundation for reaching an agreement on a number of problems in the future and, furthermore, reached an agreement on the question of setting up a North-South Red Cross Joint Committee and the Joint Office in Panmunjom aimed at executing the points of agreement at the north-south Red Cross talks, he remarked.

Head of the delegation Kim Tae Hui went on:

This success of the talks is entirely attributable to the sincere efforts made by the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society in accordance with the earnest teachings of the respected and beloved Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung for mitigating the sufferings of the compatriots at the earliest date and promoting the independent, peaceful reunification of the country by operating the north-south Red Cross talks with sincerity.

We have deepened our conviction through the four rounds of the talks that though there are differences in ideology, ideal and system and in view between the north and the south, there are also common points as the same nation and, if both sides value these points and try to solve problems by strict adherence to the national stand of *Juche* to carve out the destiny of the nation by its own efforts, they can solve any problem.

The head of the delegation said:

The most precious thing our delegation felt during its stay in Seoul is that all the people and personnel of various circles in south Korea who met our delegation adored with infinite reverence the respected and beloved Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the sun of the nation, and expressed deep sympathy for the immortal *Juche* idea founded by him.

Witnessing the realities of south Korea, the members of the delegation deeply felt once again the great pride and honour of living under the socialist system founded by the respected and beloved Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the head of the delegation said. He added: the northern half of the Republic where the socialist system most superior in the world has been set up under the rays of the great *Juche* idea of the fatherly Leader—this is the real home of happy life of our people.

Cherishing deep in our hearts this glory of today, we should remain infinitely loyal to the Leader with singlehearted devotion and make our socialist fatherland shine brighter.

The head of the delegation solemnly declared in conclusion that under the circumstances in which the ardent desire of the whole nation to accomplish earlier the cause of the independent, peaceful reunification of the country is mounting as never before and the concern of the public at home and abroad for our common cause is growing, the delegation of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will make all sincere efforts to continue to successfully promote its work, not falling short of the expectation of the entire people.

Head of the delegation Kim Tae Hui answered a number of questions put by journalists.

Economic and Cultural Exchange between North and South Is One of Important Means to Restore National Ties and Promote National Reunification

Ever since liberation, the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of our Republic have advanced to the south Korean authorities many reasonable and realistic measures and proposals for an independent, peaceful reunification of the country.

We proposed an establishment of a unified government through free north-south general elections as a basic means of attaining independent, peaceful reunification. As a transitional step, we proposed a north-south Confederation on many occasions.

Since the south Korean authorities refused to accept these just proposals of ours, we made repeated proposals to have at least economic and cultural exchange between the north and south.

The great Leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il Sung said as follows:

"We have maintained time and again that if the south Korean authorities cannot accept the Confederation, then the nation's tribulations caused by the division should at least be softened by effecting north-south economic and cultural exchange, leaving aside political questions for the time being." ("On the South Korean Revolution and National Reunification," Korean ed., p. 314.)

The proposal for economic and cultural exchange and cooperation between the north and south is the most fair and reasonable one prompted solely by our earnest desire to do all our efforts as fellow countrymen to reunite the severed national bonds, dispel distrust between brothers, promote mutual understanding and quickly rehabilitate the south Korean economy which is on the brink of bankruptcy, so that the living conditions of the south Korean people can be improved.

Putting the south Korean economy on the right track to raise the living standards of the south Korean people is a burning question today, for the solution of which north-south economic exchange is essential.

Under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, the people in the northern half have effected socialist industrialization through their heroic struggle and laid a solid foundation of a self-supporting national economy. The powerful economic basis built up in the northern half is an adequate asset to develop the national economy of whole Korea in an independent way.

Only the use of strong north Korean economic foundations through economic cooperation and exchange between the two parts of Korea will organically combine the powerful northern industry and southern agriculture, ensure a uniform and independent development of the national economy, revitalize the devastated south Korean economy and raise the living standards of the south Korean people as a whole, who are in the depth of mire.

Introduction of foreign capital will only invite national ruin and enslavement.

From their bitter experiences in the past and from the south Korean realities at present, the Korean people know too well what an infiltration of foreign capital means.

If we unite our efforts, exploit our rich national resources uniformly relying on the powerful heavy industry in the northern half and develop the national economy with coordinated efforts, all the Korean people will certainly lead as happy a life as any other people do.

We have also proposed to form a commission of purely economic nature comprising business representatives from north and south Korea, with a view to realizing north-south exchange successfully. In this proposal are contemplated exchange of goods between north and south Korea at a set place, mutual cooperation and aid in economic construction.

Beside the economic exchange, we must have a wide exchange of culture.

From olden times, the Korean people have been a nation of the same blood. Our nation have one and the same language, written and spoken; they share the same history and same cultural traditions.

For 27 years now, however, our people have been separated between the north and south; they cannot visit each other, cannot see each other, nor hear from each other. Under these circumstances, the language in the north and south is changing from each other and so are our culture and customs.

In particular, our national culture and noble customs and manners are wantonly trampled underfoot in south Korea due to its occupation by the U.S. imperialists and to the reinvasion manoeuvres of the Japanese militarists.

This constitutes an obstacle to a uniform development of our nation and hurls south Korea into the depth of degeneration and corruption from which there is no way out.

We can never be indifferent to this state of affairs, despite the difference in social systems between the two parts of the country.

Scientific and cultural exchange between the north and south should be effected without delay.

Only when cultural missions can visit each other for mutual exchange and cooperation between the north and south in all fields of science, culture, arts, physical culture, etc., can science, technology and culture in south Korea be quickly boosted and the knowledge and talents of the men of science, technology, letters and arts in south Korea be totally enlisted in the development of the national economy and culture.

Then, our science and technology will develop uniformly, our brilliant culture and arts will flourish with added lustre before the eyes of the world, and in the field of physical culture, too, single teams will be formed to display their skill on the world arena.

When north-south economic and cultural exchange and cooperation are realized meeting each other's needs, the severed national ties will be linked again, the national economy, science and culture will make a rapider progress on a national scale, and also mutual understanding and trust will be promoted and the cause of independent, peaceful reunification of the country will be realized earlier.

Agreement Reached on Deciding Dates for Fifth and Sixth Sessions of North-South Red Cross Talks through Direct Telephone Links or through Red Cross Liaison Offices in Panmunjom

According to an announcement of the spokesman of the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society, it was agreed upon at the fourth session of the north-south Red Cross talks held in Seoul on November 22 to decide the dates for the fifth and sixth sessions through the direct telephone links between the two Red Cross organisations or through the Red Cross liaison offices in Panmunjom.

CC, DPRK Red Cross Society, Pyongyang No. 13403-274242